

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectively requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks. Claims 1-4, 9-16 and 18-22 are currently pending. Claims 5-8, 17 and 23-24 are cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 9-16 were allowed. Applicants note with appreciation that the subject matter of these claims has been allowed.

Claims 17, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,044,069 to Wan in view of United States Patent No. 5,301,225 to Suzuki et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections set forth in the present office action. Applicants note, however, that claims 18-22, which depend on claim 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that these claims were also indicated as being allowable in the first Office Action. Desiring to expedite the issuance of a patent for the present invention and in view of the Examiner's indications of amendments that would confer allowance, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions found in the first Office Action. Applicants have cancelled claims 23-24.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application Publication No. 0 615 352 A1 to Malkamaki in view of Suzuki. Applicant respectfully disagrees that the cited art renders these claims obvious. Applicant, however, has cancelled these claims without prejudice. This rejection is therefore moot.

As the Applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the Applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the

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Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to **50-2117**.

Respectfully submitted,
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